



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Division

Washington, DC 20530

Via Email

October 8, 2019

Mr. Anthony Roberts
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 79352
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144
79352-65975959@requests.muckrock.com

Request No. 145-FOI-16947
ES:HDK

Dear Mr. Roberts:

This letter acknowledges that on September 25, 2019 the Civil Division received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you requested all communications, records and information exchanged between the Tauler Smith, LLP and the Department of Justice.

The records you seek require a search in another Office in the Division, and so your request presents “unusual circumstances” under the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii)(I). Because of these unusual circumstances, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. We have not completed a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. The time needed to process your request will depend on the complexity of our records search and on the volume and complexity of any records located. For your information, this Office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Simple requests usually receive a response in approximately one month, whereas complex requests necessarily take longer. At this time your request has been assigned to the complex track. You may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records or agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located; or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

We have determined that you are making this request as a representative of the media. The FOIA provides for three categories of requesters. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii). Department of Justice regulations define a “representative of the news media” as “any person or entity organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public.” See 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(b)(6). As a “representative of the news media,” you will not be charged search fees, but will be charged any applicable duplication or direct costs for processing your request. I note that you indicate a willingness to pay fees, but would like to be notified of any prior to fulfilling your request. We will contact you if any fees will be assessed.

I regret the necessity of this delay, but I assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative

time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact me by telephone at 202-514-2319 or you may write to me at the FOIA, Records, and E-Discovery Office, Civil Division, Department of Justice, Room 8314, 1100 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20530. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Hirsh D. Kravitz
Senior Supervisory FOIA Counsel
FOIA, Records, and E-Discovery Office